

# LEGI-SLATE

®

The Washington Post  
Company's Online Service  
Covering Congress and  
the Federal Register





### Locate Legislation of Special Interest

LEGI-SLATE contains information about all federal legislation since the start of the 96th Congress in 1979. All 40 to 50 bills and resolutions introduced each day, public and private—as many as 10,000 a year. Every one has a purpose for some member and his constituency, whether or not that purpose is clear to a casual observer.

To help you find the bills of importance to your interests, LEGI-SLATE indexes each one in many ways: by subjects, sponsor and cosponsors, citation of previous laws being amended, and so on.

All you do is type in a few simple instructions (in plain English), and LEGI-SLATE searches instantly through our computer storehouse to find only the bills that fit *your* interests.





## Track the Daily Status of Your Legislation

LEGI-SLATE now makes it possible to greatly expand your perspective. Beyond the handful of critical bills you *must* focus on, LEGI-SLATE will watch others you find on related legislation, and the new emerging issues that may not yet have enough support for early action.

Many bills will languish and die in committee, but some can spring sudden surprises. To keep you current on the status of each bill, LEGI-SLATE captures every stage of the legislative process—a step-by-step history of the life of every bill:

- Every committee hearing, markup or other business meeting

- Every cosponsor added (or withdrawn), that signals shifting support for competing legislation
- Every amendment, who offered it on what date, its purpose, and what happened to it
- Every motion, who made it on what date, and its outcome
- Every vote, by names of individual members, if recorded, including those who failed to vote.

To help you manage this flood of information, LEGI-SLATE remembers all the bills you want to track, but your daily status reports can be limited to show only those few that may have had anything happen to them since the last time you asked.



**"What would take days or weeks by hand can be completed in minutes with LEGI-SLATE."**

**Monitor Votes and Rate Voting Performance**

The House and Senate each have almost 1,000 recorded votes each year, a total of nearly 4,000 per Congress. Many are one-sided, signifying little disagreement. But others sharply divide the members along important party or ideological lines.

Published ratings of voting performance have typically been a handy—but at times misleading—source when you need to identify friends and foes. Handy because someone else did the difficult job of calculating the ratings. But misleading when the ratings mix ideological apples and oranges, obscuring members who may be with you on one narrow issue, but against you on others.

Now with LEGI-SLATE, you can make your own private "report card" for each member—instantly on your narrowly defined issues of special importance. What would take days or weeks by hand can be completed in minutes with LEGI-SLATE.





### **Monitor Committee Schedules**

There is meeting space for 70 or more committees and subcommittees each day in Washington, not to mention field hearings in other cities.

Published schedules are notoriously undependable and subject to cancellation, postponement, or changes in agenda, meeting place, or time.

The only solution is to check and recheck *every* committee every day. LEGI-SLATE dedicates

two full-time staff members just to monitor these schedules for you.

Each schedule shows the name of the committee and subcommittee if any, the date, time and location, type of meeting, whether it is open or closed to the public, and its agenda.

As a special service, cancelled or postponed meetings are never erased from the schedule, but left in with an appropriate notation, so that you don't wonder what happened to them.



“With LEGI-SLATE, you have access to today's *Federal Register*, indexed in many important ways.”



#### **Review Daily Changes in Federal Regulations**

Our system of government assigns Congress the authority to pass laws telling the regulatory agencies what they can or cannot do.

Then it is the agencies that devise the rules and regulations as reported in the *Federal Register* each business day. Anyone concerned with government affairs who ignores one branch or the other risks missing half of the events that affect our business and personal lives.

With LEGI-SLATE, you have daily access to today's *Federal Register*, indexed in many important ways to help you locate the agencies, rules and regulations, notices, and other details of the regulatory process that impact your affairs.

Each LEGI-SLATE entry indicates the purpose of the announcement (proposed or final rules, notices, Presidential Documents, comment period), with

name and number to contact for more information, and so on—all available instantly by about noon the same day of publication, from anywhere in the country.

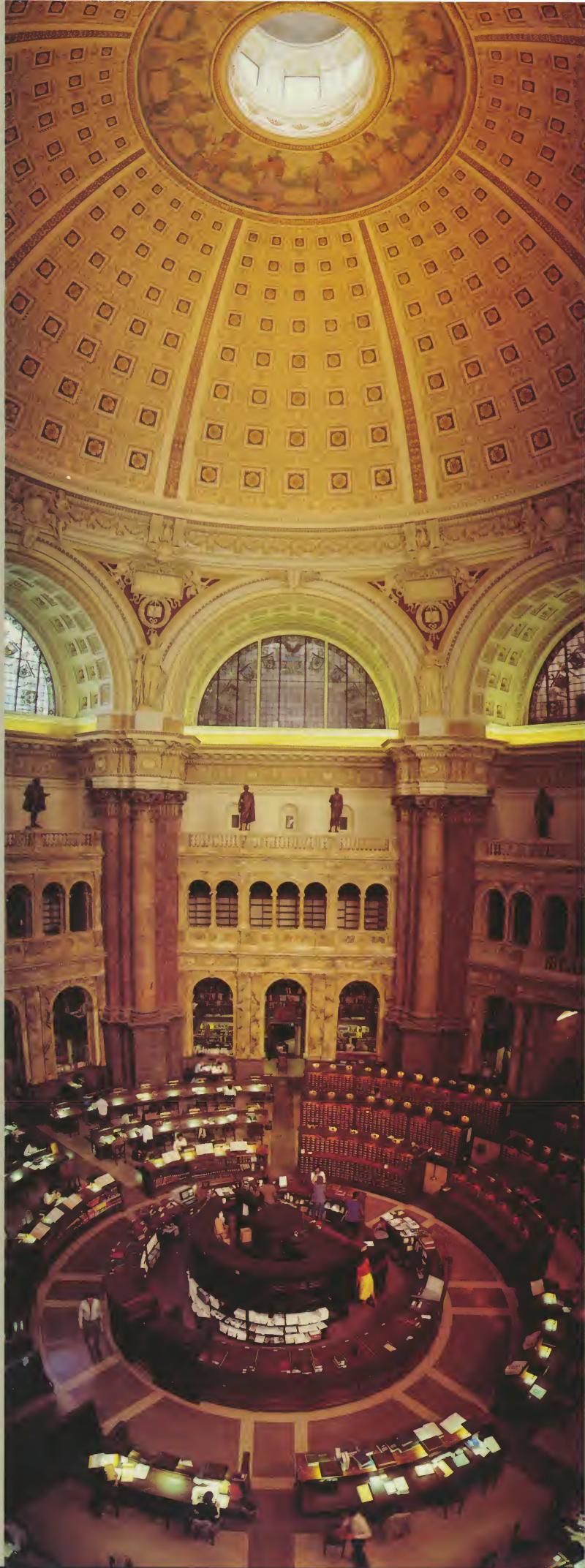
If you should need the full text of any announcements, we can get copies to you within hours.

#### **Get Daily Updates in Private Reports in Your Office**

By special arrangement with the U.S. Government Printing Office, LEGI-SLATE analysts get advance copies of the *Congressional Record* and *Federal Register* early each morning.

Their skill and training focus on rapid but accurate preparation of this mass of information for LEGI-SLATE subscribers. Numerous automatic checks are performed by the computer, but everything is rechecked and proofed before it is released around noon, Washington time, each day for immediate availability to you.





“We want to make sure that you understand not only *what* to do and *how* to do it, but also *why* to do it.”

#### **Availability**

You can reach LEGI-SLATE by a local telephone connection from almost anywhere, 24 hours a day. All that is required on your end is a general purpose computer terminal. Detailed technical specifications are available, of course, but LEGI-SLATE was carefully designed for the simplest, most common type of terminal now found in many offices.

#### **Training**

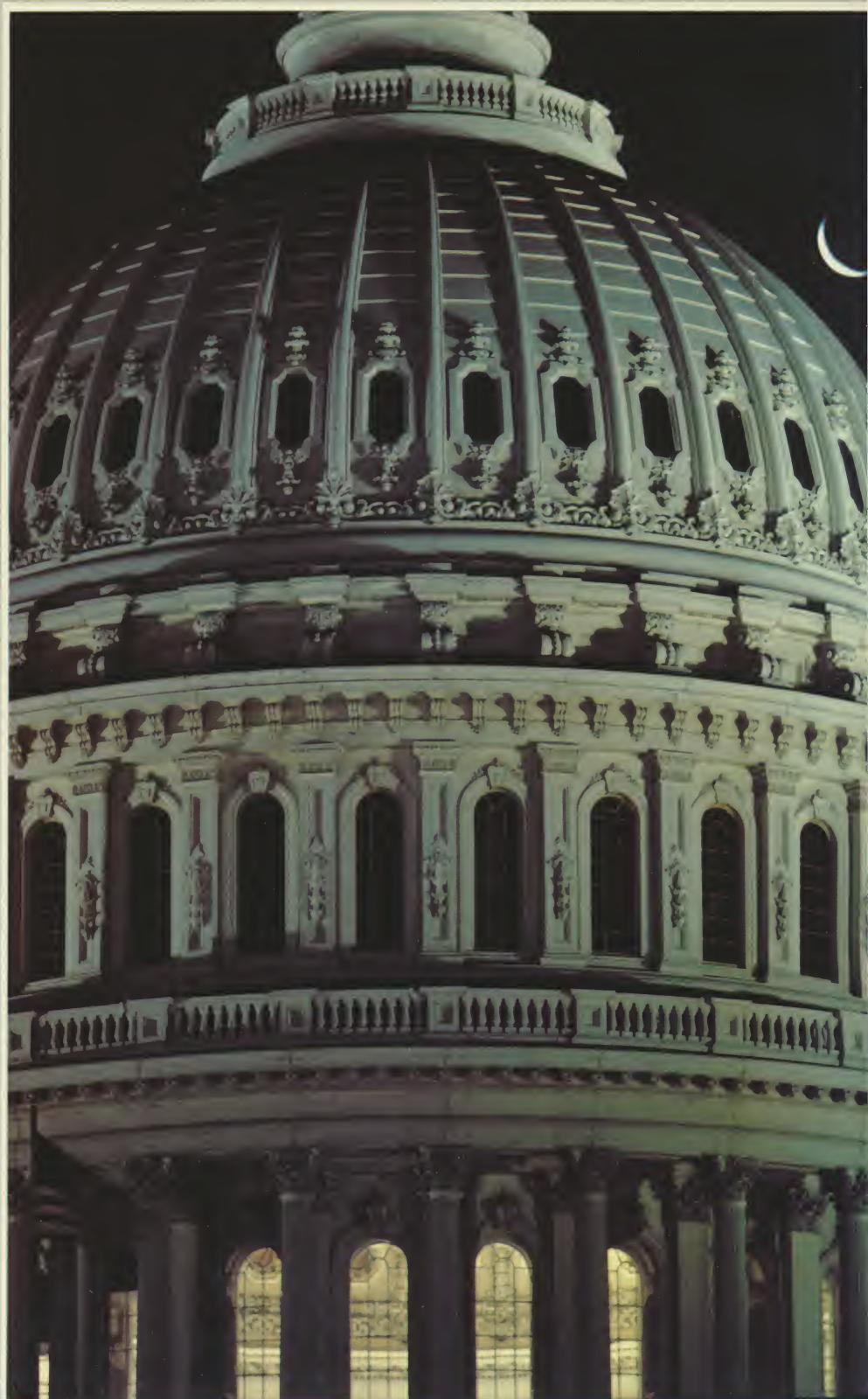
Your subscription to LEGI-SLATE includes a series of hands-on seminars to teach you, free of charge, how to get information previously unavailable.

You'll learn in detail what types of information are in LEGI-SLATE, how to find it, and how to produce reports ready for office distribution without further effort.

You are invited to send as many people for training as you wish, and they can come back as often as you choose. We want to make sure that you understand not only *what* to do and *how* to do it, but also *why* to do it.

#### **Customer Support**

However familiar you become with LEGI-SLATE, there will be times when you have questions. Our customer service representatives are as close as your telephone during business hours, and we schedule periodic visits around the country with our subscribers based outside of Washington.



LEGI-SLATE, Inc., founded in 1978, is based in Washington, D.C., and is a subsidiary of The Washington Post Company.

111 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202-898-2300

# At last, friendly pricing.

From the beginning, pricing for online computer information has been unnecessarily complex.

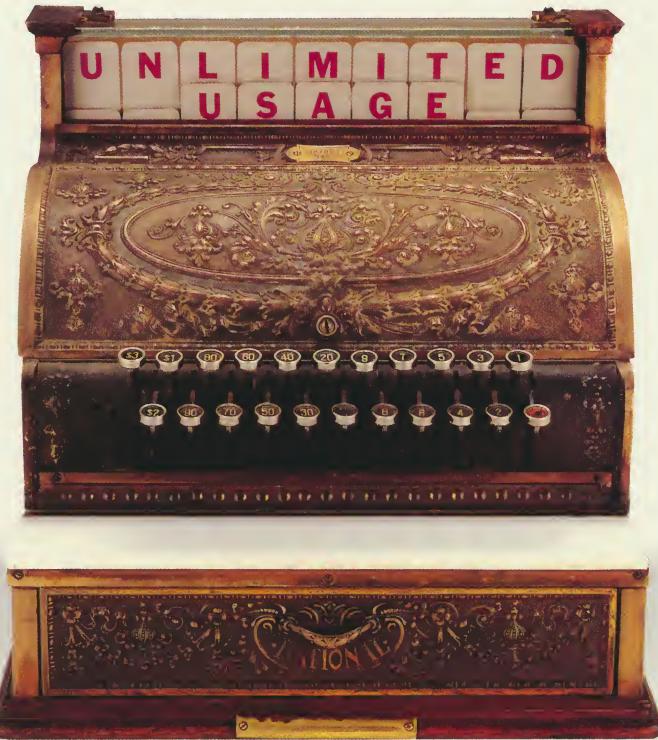
Pricing is usually based on things like CPU seconds CRUs, communications, connect time, characters, BAUD rate, prime time, non-prime time, file storage, batch, off-line printing, print lines, down-loading, up-links... and a partridge in a pear tree.

It is embarrassing, now, to look back and confess that when LEGI-SLATE was introduced in 1978, we were briefly guilty of this silliness.

## Our Friendly Service

LEGI-SLATE is The Washington Post Company's online service that gives you daily updates on Congress, voting, and the Federal Register, with private reports printed *instantly* on your office terminal.

After our initial lapse, we quickly mended our ways and charged only for connect time. That was easier to understand, but still not as friendly as it could be.



If you have ever tensed up at a computer terminal keyboard because the clock was ticking—and you knew you were being charged for every second—you know what we mean.

## Truly User-friendly Pricing

Now there is *no* charge each time you use LEGI-SLATE—no clocks, no meters,

nothing. Only a single annual fee based on which parts of our over-all services you select to fit your needs.

Whether you are online for only a few minutes or an hour, you will never again be pressured by the fear of running up a big bill.

## Even Friendly Sales Reps

If you need to keep on top of what happens in Washington each day—if you're drowning in information, but thirsting for knowledge—you need LEGI-SLATE.

Call today to arrange a free demonstration in your office. Now what could be friendlier than that?

---

---

**LEGI-SLATE**

---

111 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20001 • 202-898-2300

# “And if elected, I will introduce legislation to...”

## **Did He (Or She)?**

How can you find out whether the candidate followed through with election promises? Can you rely on the press? On the member's newsletter back home? A phone call to a staff aide?

Perhaps. But in the rush of legislation introduced at the start of each new Congress, it is sometimes hard to pinpoint bills of special interest.

## **Sure Way To Find Out**

One safe way is to use LEGI-SLATE, our computer based service that indexes every bill as it is introduced—by sponsoring member, by subject keyword, by citation of a law it is trying to amend or repeal, and so on.

With a few simple steps, you can instantly use the power of the computer age to sift through thousands of bills. Instantly you can find just the handful—or the single bill—of particular interest.

Then LEGI-SLATE will automatically track the bills you select, 10, 50, 100, 500, or more. Daily updates can focus on just the ones that have had any action since the last time you asked.



## **Well, Yes, Sort Of...**

Is the language of the hoped for bill clear and on target, or did something slip between the campaign trail and the promised legislation? Did one promise sort of get blended in with others?

As a special added service of LEGI-SLATE, we can get you a copy of the bills you need to study in detail (we keep a copy of every one in our file, from the start of the 96th Congress in 1979).

## **But Did It Go Anywhere?**

Once you have located the bills that interest you, LEGI-SLATE will track them (one or a thousand) automatically through each legislative step. You get private updates printed on your own office terminal.

## **Free Demonstration**

Please call today to arrange a time when we can meet to demonstrate how LEGI-SLATE can help you distinguish between the real promises and the ones that failed.

---

---

**LEGI-SLATE**

---

---

111 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20001 • 202-898-2300

# “Let's see, he voted NO on this one, and we were opposed to the amendment, so his NO vote was favorable to us... or was it?”

Have you or your staff ever tried to rate the voting performance of Congress?

If so, you know what a time-consuming, frustrating, and error-prone chore it can be.

## **It's No Fun**

First, you must go through old copies of the *Congressional Record* in search of recorded votes that relate to your interest.

Then you must make some sort of tally sheets to keep score.

And when you have all the tallies added up, rechecked, and percentaged, what if some of your best “friends” turn out to have rather low ratings? Do you have time to recalculate the ratings with different votes?

Because of the effort, time, and expense, moreover, there is a tendency to base your ratings on eight or ten votes (out of almost 2,000 in each house during a typical Congress) or to rely on published ratings that may not reflect your special interests. So you're probably



not getting a fair picture of members' positions.

## **We Make It Easy**

It's all much easier with LEGI-SLATE, our computer-based service that contains all votes from the start of the 96th Congress in 1979.

First, you can quickly locate and review any votes that may impact your affairs, specifying how you wanted the members to vote on each one. Then you get instant, private reports printed on your office terminal showing ratings for all members.

And if the ratings didn't turn out as expected, simply add or delete votes and get a revised rating report—all in a matter of minutes.

## **Free Demonstration**

Please call today to arrange a time when we can meet to demonstrate how you can use LEGI-SLATE to produce ratings of voting performance—instantly, privately, and tailored to your special interests.

# **LEGI-SLATE**

111 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20001 • 202-898-2300

# How to be a hometown hero from your office in Washington.

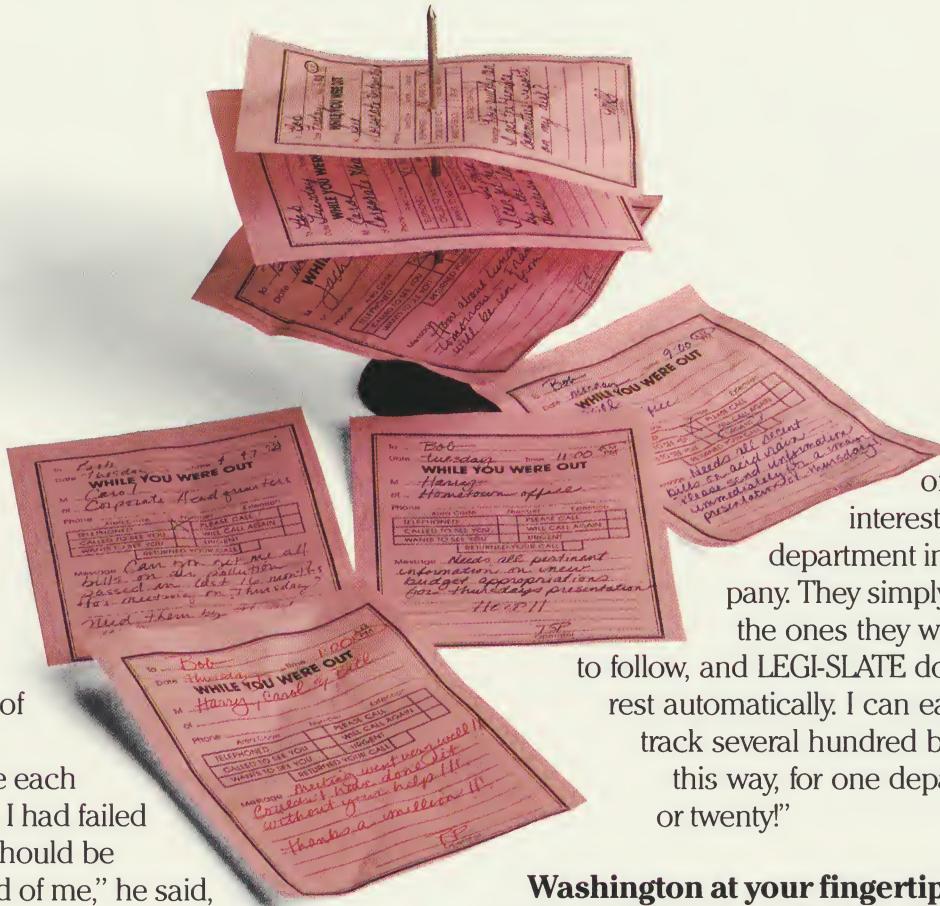
A lobbyist for a major corporation tells us he used to cringe each time someone called from his home office asking for a copy of a certain bill.

Why? "Because each phone call meant I had failed to provide what should be routinely expected of me," he said, and went on to explain:

"Consider that the caller—from the financial, engineering, or environmental department—had probably learned of the bill from a newsletter that had been edited a week or two before, based on a report of bill introductions that might have been another two or three weeks old. We're talking at least a month!"

## The Step Ahead

Now, with LEGI-SLATE, I forward weekly summaries of new legislation and regulations



that are of potential interest to each department in the company. They simply mark the ones they want me to follow, and LEGI-SLATE does the rest automatically. I can easily track several hundred bills in this way, for one department or twenty!"

## Washington at your fingertips

LEGI-SLATE is our computer-based tracking service that gives you daily updates on Congress and the *Federal Register*. You get private reports printed on your office terminal—suitable for distribution to others.

"No more guilt," our friend concluded. "Now I'm a hero in the home office!"

## Free demonstration

Please call today to arrange a time when we can meet to demonstrate how LEGI-SLATE can make you a hero, too.

# LEGI-SLATE

111 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20001 • 202-898-2300

# “He’s with us when he votes, but good grief! He’s absent half the time.”

One of our subscribers is using LEGI-SLATE for what has become a routine check on the voting performance of the members. LEGI-SLATE is our computer-based service that lets you rate the voting performance of Congress. You have instant access to all votes from as early as the start of the 96th Congress in 1979 to as recent as yesterday.

With a few simple steps, you can make your own customized ratings, printed in private reports on your office terminal.

## **Behind the Scenes**

It is important to understand that most interest groups who publish ratings of the members base them on when the members were voting. That is, if a member voted “favorably” on two votes out of ten, he would get a perfect rating of 100%—even if he were absent on the other eight votes.

Since this can sometimes conceal a member’s effective level of support, LEGI-SLATE voting



analysis reports always show ratings two ways: first, based on all votes, and second, based only on the votes when the member was present and voting.

This feature gave our subscriber an important insight. A friendly senator, one whose support was taken for granted, was found to be absent much of the time—at least on votes felt to be critical to our subscriber.

## **Solving the Problem**

In this case, no persuasion was needed to gain the senator’s support—only his attendance. Solution: our subscriber assigned a staff member to watch for the approach of key votes, and then try to assure the member’s attendance.

## **Free Demonstration**

Please call today to arrange a time when we can meet to demonstrate how LEGI-SLATE can pinpoint which members you need to have present at key votes—and those you hope will stay away.

---

---

**LEGI-SLATE**

---

111 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20001 • 202-898-2300

# Why are "unimportant" bills introduced in Congress?

Forty or fifty new bills are introduced each day Congress is in session—5,000 or more each year. Less than 10% may be passed into law, so why does anyone bother with the others?

## Every One Has a Purpose

No bill is introduced in a vacuum. Each one represents the interests of some constituency of the member who sponsored it—voters back home, an industry, an association, or even an individual person or company.

The sponsor's own motives can range from burning idealism to political self-interest. Or the bill may represent the strong feelings of others whose job it is to promote passage of favorable legislation—at times drafting a bill for the co-operating member who sponsors it.

## The Emerging Issues

Some new issues are not obvious to anyone but their most ardent supporters. But they can blind-side a casual observer who is preoccupied with his or her typical five to ten "key" bills.

The exceptional issues may quickly capture the attention of the public—and Congress. But most bills get passed the hard way, failing repeatedly in each new Congress until they finally pass.



## How Can You Tell What's Important?

Often you can't. That is why it is essential to keep track of all bills that even remotely affect your interests.

LEGI-SLATE can help. We're the Washington Post

Company's online service covering Congress and the Federal Register. Without LEGI-SLATE, you face an impossible struggle to "watch everything." But with LEGI-SLATE, you get the benefit of our trained staff of analysts and the speed and power of the computer age.

LEGI-SLATE has information about *every* bill as it is introduced. You can automatically track one bill or a thousand, step by step, through the legislative process.

If a bill you discounted suddenly comes to life, you can be alerted by daily updates from LEGI-SLATE (private reports are printed on your office terminal).

## Free Demonstration

Please call today to arrange a time when we can meet to demonstrate how LEGI-SLATE can help you watch even the "unimportant" bills—and alert you when they suddenly become important.

# LEGI-SLATE

111 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20001 • 202-898-2300

# Do you give your PAC dollars to members who agree with you... or with someone else?

While we were talking with the PAC coordinator for a major corporation, he mentioned a certain congressman from an urban district. "We don't support him," he said. "He doesn't represent our interests at all."

## Testing It Out

To test this view, we used LEGI-SLATE to rate the voting performance of the congressman on selected votes of prime interest to the PAC coordinator.

He was startled to learn that the congressman had been with them on *all but one* of their key votes.

LEGI-SLATE is our computer-based service that contains all votes from the start of the 96th Congress in 1979. It first helps you locate and review any votes that may impact your affairs. Then it leads you through simple steps to create your own customized voting analysis.



## Answers In Minutes

And LEGI-SLATE does all this in minutes, with private reports printed on your office terminal, ready for distribution to others as appropriate.

In addition, of course, LEGI-SLATE also gives you daily updates on new bill introductions, day-by-day changes in their status and cosponsors, as well as committee schedules, and the *Federal Register*—all for about \$100 a week.

Without LEGI-SLATE, this PAC coordinator was ready to throw out the baby with the bathwater. Instead, he is now able to target financial support based on each member's performance on key votes that narrowly impact his company's affairs.

## Free Demonstration

Please call today to arrange a time when we can meet to demonstrate how LEGI-SLATE can reveal which members *really* deserve your support.

# LEGI-SLATE

111 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20001 • 202-898-2300

**LEGI-SLATE**

®